

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-06 HEW-02 OES-03 OFA-01

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DEPT FOR CU/NEA; KUWAIT FOR USIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : OEXC, OVIP

SUBJECT : QATAR UNIVERSITY SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN EXPANDING
SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS

1. DR. MOHAMED KAZEM, DEAN OF QATAR U. HAS INFORMED US THAT
UNIVERSITY IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING ITS SCIENCE OFFERINGS
TO INCLUDE MARINE SCIENCE/OCEANOGRAPHY AND COURSES RELATED
TO DESALINATION.

2. KAZEM SAID THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SHAYKH JASSIM BIN
HAMAD AL THANI, AND HIMSELF WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VISITING
US UNIVERSITIES WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED PROGRAMS IN THESE FIELDS
TO DEVELOP IDEAS FOR USE HERE, AND POSSIBLY TO RECRUIT APPRO-
PRIATE FACULTY. KAZEM SAID THAT HE AND MINISTER, AND INVITATION
OF BRITISH COUNCIL, HAD VISITED DURING FIRST HALF OF MARCH
GLASGOW AND SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC CENTER,
LONDON, FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND THEY WOULD NOW LIKE TO COMPARE
US FACILITIES WITH WHAT THEY HAD SEEN IN UK. KAZEM SAID FROM
HIS POINT OF VIEW BEST TIME FOR VISIT WOULD BE SEPT OR NOV-DEC.

3. WE ASKED WHO HAD FUNDED UK TRIP. KAZEM SAID THAT GOQ HAD
PAID MOST COSTS, BUT THAT UNIVERSITIES VISITED HAD OFFERED
HOSPITALITY, AND HE EXPECTED SAME PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOLLOWED
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ON POSSIBLE VISIT TO US.

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING A PRELIMINARY READING FROM DEPT ON WHETHER IT COULD SET UP SUCH A VISIT. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE MINISTER HIMSELF IS RELATIVELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE AND WOULD BE MOSTLY ALONG FOR THE RIDE. HE IS, HOWEVER, THE AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER AND HAS PLENTY OF LOCAL POLITICAL CLOUT. FOR THIS REASON, WE SHOULD THINK OF OFFERING SHAYKH JASSIM SOME APPROPRIATE HOSPITALITY IN WASHINGTON IF TRIP MATERIALIZES. VISIT WOULD HAVE MULTIPLE BENEFITS IN THAT IT WOULD BRING SENIOR GOQ OFFICIAL TO US AND FURTHER OUR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH QATAR U, BOTH AT MINIMUM COST.

5. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER APPROPRIATE PROGRAM COULD BE ARRANGED FOR ABOVE-MENTIONED TIME FRAME TO INCLUDE BRIEF VISIT TO AND SOME HOSPITALITY IN WASHINGTON,
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